

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7391

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

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CINCLANT AND CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, MA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA ANNOUNCES NEW "NATIONALIZATIONS"

REF: A. TANANARIVE A-135, SEPT 19, 1974; B. TANANARIVE 1069

(NOTAL)

1. IN SPEECH ON JUNE 30 AT TAMATAVE, MADAGASCAR'S LEADING PORT,
PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DIDIER RATSIRAKA
ANNOUNCED GOMR'S INTENTION TO TAKE 51 PERCENT CONTROL OF MALAGASY
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MARINE TRANSPORT COMPANY AND PETROLEUM REFINERY AT TAMATAVE. IN

ADDITION, RATSIRAKA SAID GOMR WOULD SEEK MONOPOLY ON TRANSPORT OF CRUDE OIL FROM PERSIAN GULF TO TAMATAVE.

2. MAD PRESSE, OFFICIAL GOMR NEWS AGENCY, CARRIED BACKGROUND REPORT JULY 1 ON MALAGASY MARINE TRANSPORT COMPANY (SOCIETE MALGACHE TRANSPORTS MARITIMES, SMTM) WHICH INDICATED THAT GOMR HAS BEEN PARTICIPANT IN COMPANY SINCE 1962 AND PRESENTLY HELD 40 PERCENT INTEREST. REPORT ALSO INDICATED THAT SMTM'S FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN - THAT INCLUDES ACQUISITION OF A TANKER AND BANANA BOAT - WAS APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT. PLAN ENVISAGES INVESTMENT OF \$5.5 MILLION "FINANCED BY NATIONAL OR FOREIGN BANKS AND SMTM."

3. EMBASSY COMMENT:

ACQUISITION OF ONE TANKER SHOULD PERMIT GOMR TO MONOPOLIZE CRUDE OIL TRANSPORT FROM PERSIAN GULF TO MADAGASCAR SINCE TAMATAVE REFINERY NOW RECEIVES ONLY ONE TANKER EVERY OTHER MONTH. GOMR HAS BEEN MINORITY (15 PERCENT) SHAREHOLDER IN REFINERY WITH ESSO (13.7), CALTEX (12.1), PLUS SHELL, TOTAL AND OTHERS. ELF OPERATES REFINERY. GOMR HAS BEEN SEEKING MAJORITY CONTROL OF REFINERY FOR SOME TIME (SEE REFAIR (NOTAL). AS WITH NATIONALIZATIONS REPORTED REFTTEL, THESE LATEST GOMR MOVES REPRESENT MARCH ALONG CONTINUUM RATHER THAN SHARP BREAK WITH PAST POLICY. RATSIRAKA WRAPPED HIS SPEECH IN REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC BUT NOTED THAT EVEN FRANCE HAD NATIONALIZED SOME INSURANCE COMPANIES AND BANKS. HE SAID ALSO THAT GOMR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND PRC DID NOT MAKE ONE A COMMUNIST, POINTING OUT THAT EVEN PRESIDENT NIXON HAD SHAKEN HANDS WITH MAO. ELFERS

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